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CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

In June, 1840, the American Peace Society, in presenting to Queen Victoria a volume of the Prize Essays on a Congress of Nations, accompanied it with the following letter :

May it please your Majesty :—The American Peace Society, encouraged by the gracious reception which a letter from them to your Majesty's illustrious predecessor and uncle, William the Fourth, the mediator between France and America, met with from him, now venture to approach your Majesty, on the same important subject.

A Congress of Nations, for the settlement of the principles of international law, and the organization of a Court of Nations, to determine all cases which may be brought before it, by the mutual consent of any two or more contending nations, has been the object of the Peace Society ever since its organization; and much has been done in this country, and something in England, and on the continent of Europe, toward the accomplishment of this great and benevolent design. Incipient steps, leading to the great result proposed, have already been taken by the principal powers of Christendom. Mediation and arbitration have had a very happy effect in settling the disputes of contending nations, and thereby preventing the horrors and calamities of war. Various congresses have convened to settle the affairs of nations, after war has tried in vain to settle them; how much more conducive to the happiness of mankind it would have been, if these congresses had met before these wars, and prevented them! Now, our object is, to reduce to rule and permanency that which before was only occasional and transient, and to have always on hand a body of able jurists, selected from the most enlightened nations in Christendom, for the sole purpose of judging and amicably settling those cases, which, from time to time, might be brought before them, by the mutual consent of the parties concerned. To determine the duties of this court, and to lay down and enact some simple rules and laws for its government, and to effect a covenant between enlightened nations, by which they shall agree to submit to the Court of Nations such disputes as have heretofore been submitted to occasional congresses and individual umpires, is the object of the proposed Congress of Nations.

It is not to be expected that, in the compass of a letter, the details of the plan proposed can be developed; therefore, the American Peace Society has taken the liberty to present to your Majesty a volume of Prize Essays on this subject. The peculiar position of Great Britain and the United States, which threatens a war between two of the most enlightened nations of the world, for an inconsiderable portion of wilderness, calls aloud for the examination of a plan, calculated to remedy for ever such a state of things. This boundary dispute has already been referred to a single umpire, who has failed to reconcile the parties by an award, seemingly designed to please both parties, without deciding on the justice of the claims of either. There is reason to believe, that had the dispute been submitted to a tribunal of able jurists, independent on political relations of either party, and unsuspected of partiality, their award would have for ever

settled the question to the satisfaction of both parties, and the world at large.

The American Peace Society solemnly appeals to your Majesty in favor of bleeding humanity, and the cause of virtue and religion; and if your Majesty's illustrious ancestor, Queen Elizabeth, could readily give her assent to the complicated scheme of Henry the Fourth of France, we are encouraged to implore your Majesty's attention to a plan, to which the only objection is, its extreme simplicity.

With sincere prayers to Almighty God, for the long and prosperous reign of your Majesty, and for the health and happiness of both yourself and your Majesty's august consort, the American Peace Society tender your Majesty the homage of their profound respect.

By order of the American Peace Society.

WILLIAM CROWELL, *Rec. Sec'y.*

WILLIAM LADD, *President.*

THE QUEEN'S REPLY THROUGH HER FOREIGN SECRETARY.

FOREIGN OFFICE, September 3, 1840.

SIR,—I have laid before the Queen the Address to her Majesty, which, on behalf of the American Peace Society, you placed in my hands some time ago; and I am to acquaint you, that her Majesty was very graciously pleased to receive the said Address and the volume of Prize Essays which accompanied it.

With reference to the objects of the Society, as developed in your letter, and in the Prize Essays, I beg to assure you that her Majesty has nothing more at heart than the preservation of peace, and the promotion of harmony and friendship among nations.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,
PALMERSTON.

WILLIAM LADD, Esq., Minot, State of Maine.

A WAR WITH ENGLAND.

We have lately observed, with grief and alarm, the rise of a war-spirit in different parts of our country, and a disposition to brave, if not to provoke, a war with the land of our fathers and brethren. The excitement in New York respecting McLeod, is well known; the legislatures of several States have, in set and strong resolves, pledged their entire resources in advance to sustain such a war; and reports and speeches in Congress, scattered by a thousand presses through the land, have only added fuel to the incipient flame.

Such indications prove that we have no security against war; and our only hope of continued peace lies, under God, in enlightening the public mind on the subject, and in prompting good men every where to throw their whole influence on the right side. Would they all do this at the *right time*, they might, with perfect ease and certainty, prevent a war in this and every other case. We rejoice